DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 447 966 PS 029 082

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TITLE The High Cost of Child Care Puts Quality Care out of Reach for Many Families. Issue Brief.
INSTITUTION Children's Defense Fund, Washington, DC.
SPONS AGENCY Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD.; Ford Foundation, New York, NY.; Mott (C.S.) Foundation, Flint, MI.; Booth Ferris Foundation, New York, NY.; Citigroup Foundation, New York, NY.; Prudential Foundation, Newark, NJ.
PUB DATE 2000-00-00
NOTE 47p.; For 1998 edition, see ED 426 785.
PUB TYPE Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Evaluative (142)
EDRS PRICE EDRS Price MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Day Care; Day Care Centers; Early Childhood Education; Economically Disadvantaged; Tables (Data)
IDENTIFIERS *Child Care Costs; Child Care Needs; Child Care Resource Centers

ABSTRACT

This issue brief presents data on the cost of child care, collected from local child care resource and referral agencies (CCR&Rs) surveyed by the Children's Defense Fund. The report's key findings on the high cost of child care are: (1) child care for a 4-year-old in a child care center averages $4,000 to $6,000 a year in cities and states around the country. Some centers charge $10,000 or more a year. Families with younger children or more than one child in care face even greater costs; (2) the average annual cost of child care for a 4-year-old in an urban area center is more than the average annual cost of public college tuition in all but one state. In some cities, child care costs twice as much as college tuition; (3) child care is expensive for families whether they choose center care or family child care, whether they live in urban or rural areas, or whether they have infants, preschoolers, or school-age children; (4) low-income families are left with the fewest choices, often unable to afford even average-priced care and therefore forced to put children in lower-cost, often lower quality care; and (5) the dilemma of high-cost child care cannot be resolved by asking child care providers to lower their prices. Most programs already operate on a very tight budget, paying staff an average $15,000 a year. (HTH)

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The High Cost of Child Care Puts Quality Care Out of Reach for Many Families

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About the Children's Defense Fund

The mission of the Children's Defense Fund is to Leave No Child Behind® and to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start*, and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

CDF provides a strong, effective voice for *all* the children of America who cannot vote, lobby, or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investment before they get sick, into trouble, drop out of school, or suffer family breakdown.

CDF began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit organization supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations. We have never taken government funds.

The High Cost of Child Care Puts Quality Care Out of Reach for Many Families

Karen Schulman

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND

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Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations who helped us with this report. They include state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies who took the time to provide us with their child care cost data. We are also grateful to Beth Miller, Linda Sisson, and Barbara Taylor, for helping us devise the methodology for analyzing the school-age care cost data when we wrote the original edition of this report.

Many CDF staff members and interns helped us with this project as well. They include Helen Blank, Laurie Miller, Danielle Ewen, Anourack Chinyavong, Laura Graves, Sandra Won, Laura Kaplan, and Marie Golden.

We also would like to thank the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Citigroup Foundation, the Booth Ferris Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and the Prudential Foundation, which provided support for this project.

Issue Brief:

The High Cost of Child Care Puts Quality Care Out of Reach for Many Families

Highlights

Every day, millions of American parents rely on child care to enable them to work and to provide the early education experiences needed to prepare their children for school. Good early care and education help foster each child's physical well-being and social development and give them opportunities to develop their early learning skills in a safe and secure environment. Yet finding and affording quality child care is a challenge for all families, particularly low-income working parents for whom the cost of quality child care is a real and daily barrier. A recent survey conducted by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) of child care costs across the country found:

- Child care for a 4-year-old in a child care center averages $4,000 to $6,000 per year in cities and states around the country. Some centers charge $10,000 or more per year. Families with younger children or with more than one child in care face even greater costs.
- The average annual cost of child care for a 4-year-old in an urban area center is more than the average annual cost of public college tuition in all but one state. In some cities, child care costs *twice* as much as college tuition.
- The high cost of child care is difficult for parents to escape. Child care is expensive for families whether they choose to use center care or family child care, whether they live in urban or rural areas, or whether they have infants, preschoolers, or school-age children.
- Low-income families have the fewest choices. They cannot afford not to work, yet even average-priced child care is unaffordable. Non-poor families, on average, spend 7 percent of their income on child care.[1] Even if a two-parent family with both parents working full time at minimum wage ($21,400 a year before taxes) managed to budget 10 percent of their income for child care ($2,140 a year), they would be left several thousand dollars short of what they needed to afford *average-priced* child care, much less the higher prices charged by many better quality centers and family child care homes.
- Many low-income families have no choice but to place their children in lower cost, often lower quality, care. As a result, too many children are cared for in unstimulating or even unsafe settings, depriving them of the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. While this is an unacceptable situation under any circumstance, it is particularly alarming given that children from low-income families are at greatest risk for school failure and are most in need of the strong start that high-quality care can provide.

- The dilemma posed for families by high child care costs *cannot* be resolved by asking child care providers to lower their prices. Child care providers operate on extremely tight budgets. A large proportion of a child care program's budget is devoted to staff salaries, which are already unacceptably low. The average salary of a child care worker is under $15,000 a year.[2] Lowering prices would only undermine a child care program's ability to hire a sufficient number of well-trained teachers, purchase adequate materials and equipment, and afford a safe facility.

Neither parents nor child care providers can solve the challenge of high child care costs on their own. Currently, state and federal funds are so insufficient that only one out of 10 children from low-income families who are eligible under federal law receives child care assistance.[3] The federal government, states, local communities, and the private sector must all play a larger role in helping families afford quality child care. This will enable parents to get and keep the jobs they need to support their families and ensure that their children get the strong start they need to succeed in school and in life.

About This Issue Brief

The data in this report were collected from local child care resource and referral agencies (CCR&Rs) through a survey by the Children's Defense Fund. At least one local CCR&R in each state was contacted and asked to provide any available data on child care costs in an urban area, in a rural area, and/or statewide. In 1998, CDF collected similar data from local CCR&Rs. Please note that because the CCR&Rs did not always provide data for the same areas for the two reports and may not have used the same methodology in gathering the information, the 2000 data may not be comparable to the 1998 data.

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Issue Brief:

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Child Care Is a Fact of Life

Child care is a fact of life for millions of parents working to support their families. In 1998, only 23 percent of all families with children younger than age 6 had one parent working and one who stayed at home.[4] The vast majority of families must rely on child care to help care for their children while the parents go to work.

For many families, having one parent stay home with the children is not a viable alternative. Single parents must work to provide for their families, and two-parent families often need two incomes just to make ends meet. Nationally, the majority (55 percent) of working women provide half or more of their household income,[5] and one out of three children of working mothers is poor even though their mothers work or *would be* poor if their mothers did not work.[6] For these parents, their jobs—and the child care that enables them to keep their jobs—are the difference between climbing out of poverty and falling deeper into it.

Parents rely on child care not only to enable them to work but also to provide the early education experiences that help prepare their children for school. Most children will be enrolled in a center-based program at some point before they enter kindergarten—for example, 65 percent of 4-year-olds and 75 percent of 5-year-olds not yet in kindergarten are cared for in centers on a regular basis.[7]

Child Care Is a Major Financial Burden, Exceeding the Cost of College

A survey of child care costs in the 50 states reveals that child care is one of the biggest expenses families face in raising their children. Child care can easily cost an average of $4,000 to $6,000 per year. In certain areas of the country, families may be spending more than $10,000 a year on child care. Families with infants in care must grapple with particularly high costs. Among the cities surveyed, the average price of center care for infants is generally about $1,100 a year more than the average price of center care for 4-year-olds. These are only costs for one child's care—yet, many families face child care expenses for more than one child.

Given the high cost of child care, parents can easily spend more in a year on child care than they would on public college tuition. The average annual cost of child care for a 4-year-old in an urban area center is more than the average annual cost of public college tuition in *all but one state*. The average cost of child care for *infants* in an urban area center is more than the average cost of public college tuition in *every* state (Appendix, Table A-1).

In a number of states, the average cost of child care not only exceeds the cost of public college tuition but exceeds it by a significant amount. The average cost of center care for a 4-year-old in an urban area is at least *twice* as much as the cost of public college tuition in more than one-quarter of the states (see Table 1 below).

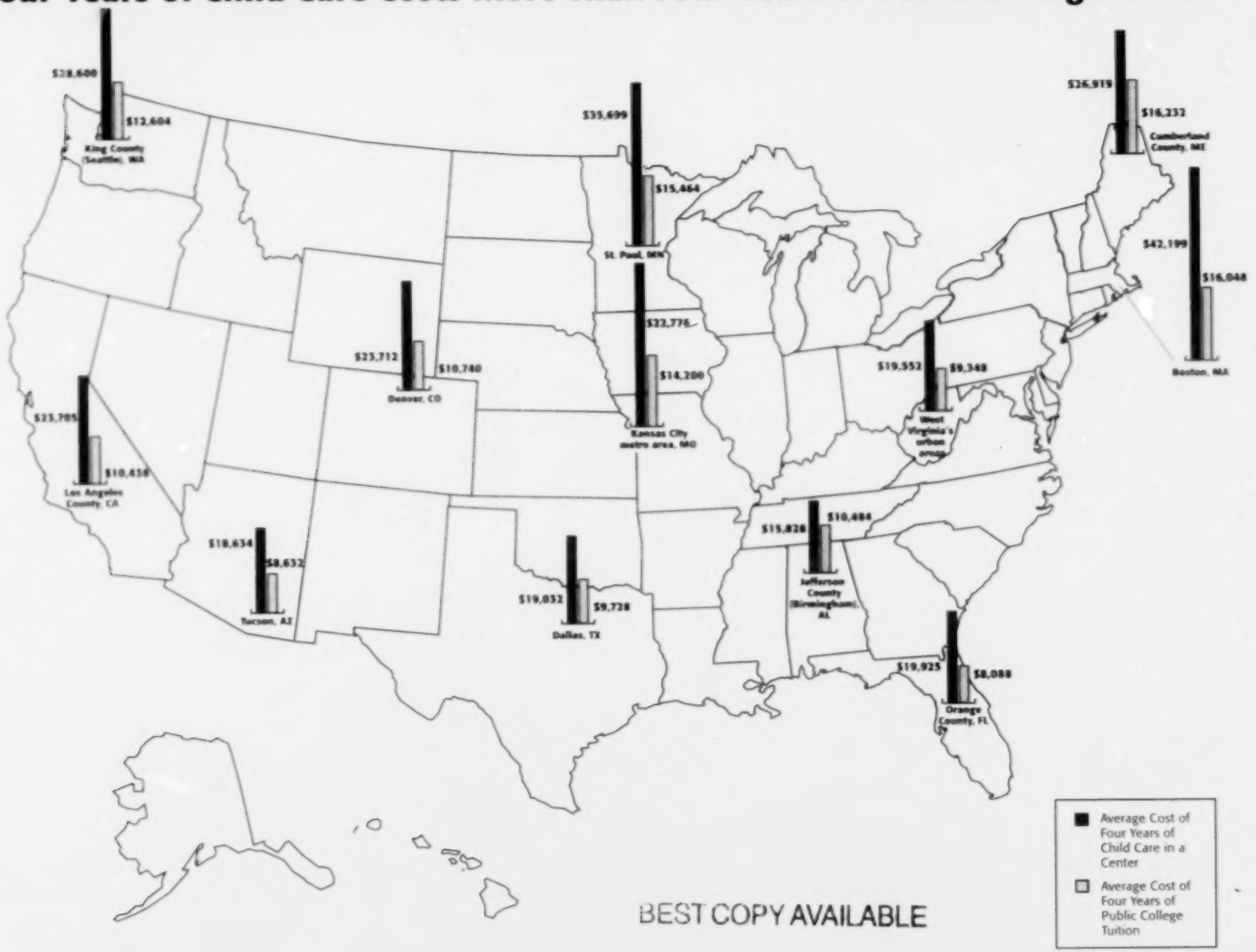
Table 1. States Where the Average Annual Cost of Child Care for a 4-year-old in an Urban Area Center Is at Least Twice the Average Annual Cost of Public College Tuition

State	Urban area	Average annual cost of child care for a 4-year-old in a center	Average annual cost of public college tuition
Alaska	Anchorage	$6,019	$2,769
Arizona	Tucson	4,352	2,158
Florida	Orange County	4,255	2,022
Georgia	Atlanta	4,992	2,442
Idaho	Boise	4,814	2,380
Iowa	Urban areas statewide	6,198	2,869
Kansas	Wichita	4,889	2,392
Massachusetts	Boston	8,121	4,012
Nevada	Reno	4,862	1,956
New Mexico	Albuquerque	4,801	2,180
New York	Rockland County	8,060	3,905
North Carolina	Durham	5,876	1,958
Utah	Salt Lake City	4,550	2,174
Washington	King County (Seattle)	6,604	3,151

See Appendix Table A-1 for source information and data on child care and public college tuition costs in all states.

The enormous burden that child care costs pose for families is even more striking when the total cost of four years of college is compared to the total cost of child care over the four years before a child enters kindergarten. For instance, in Los Angeles County, California (where college tuition and child care costs are average relative to the other urban areas surveyed), four years of college tuition costs $10,436 whereas four years of child care at an average-priced center costs $23,705 (see the map on the following page for a comparison of costs in other cities around the country).[8]

Four Years of Child Care Costs More Than Four Years of Public College Tuition



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As a result, many families across the country find that four years of quality child care is more difficult to afford than four years of college. Parents can find it especially challenging to afford child care because they often need it at a point in their lives when they are just starting out in their jobs and have not had a chance to accumulate much savings. Without some help paying for care, these families will not be able to provide their children with the positive early care and education experiences that will prepare them for school and enable them to succeed.

High Child Care Costs Are Inescapable for Parents Across the Country

The high cost of child care is an inescapable reality for many families, regardless of where they live, what type of care they use, or the age of their children. The average annual cost for a 4-year-old in a child care center exceeds $4,750 in almost two-thirds of the 47 cities surveyed and is more than $5,500 in over one-third of the cities. For example, in Boise, Idaho, the average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old is $4,814; in Chicago the cost is $5,304; and in Durham, North Carolina, the cost is $5,876 (Appendix, Table A-2).

The cost of care for infants is even higher. The average cost of center care for a 12-month-old is above $5,750 per year in almost two-thirds of the cities surveyed and is more than $6,750 per year in over one-third of the cities surveyed.

But the cost of child care is high not only for families living in urban areas, those using center-based care, or those with younger children—all families face high child care costs. A survey of average child care costs reveals:

- **Child care is costly even in rural areas.** While child care prices are somewhat lower in rural areas, even families in rural communities often cannot escape the high cost of child care. In most of the 43 rural areas for which CDF collected data, the cost of center care for a preschool-age child falls between $3,000 and $6,000 per year. The average annual cost of center care for an infant is over $4,500 in more than half of the rural areas (Appendix, Table A-3).
- **Family child care, while generally less costly than center-based care, is still expensive for many families.** In more than half of the urban areas surveyed, the average cost of family child care for a 4-year-old is over $4,500 per year. Generally, this cost of family child care is even higher for infants, which is particularly significant given that many parents prefer to use family child care when their children are very young (Appendix, Table A-5).
- **Even part-time care for school-age children can total $3,500 per year or more.** School-age children with working parents do not need full-time care, but they often do need care before and after school and during holidays and vacations. The hours spent in care quickly add up, as do the costs. The average cost of school-age care in an urban area center is over $3,000 per year in two-thirds of the states and over $3,500 per year in one-third of the states (Appendix, Table A-8).[9]

- **While some families may be able to avoid these high costs of child care by relying on a relative to provide care, for many families this is not an option.** Many families do not have relatives living close by, or find that their relatives are working to support themselves and their own families. Nearly half of all children under age 5 are cared for by non-relatives on a regular basis.[10] Even when families use relative care, they may still have to pay for it.[11]

Low-Income Families Face Particular Challenges Affording Child Care

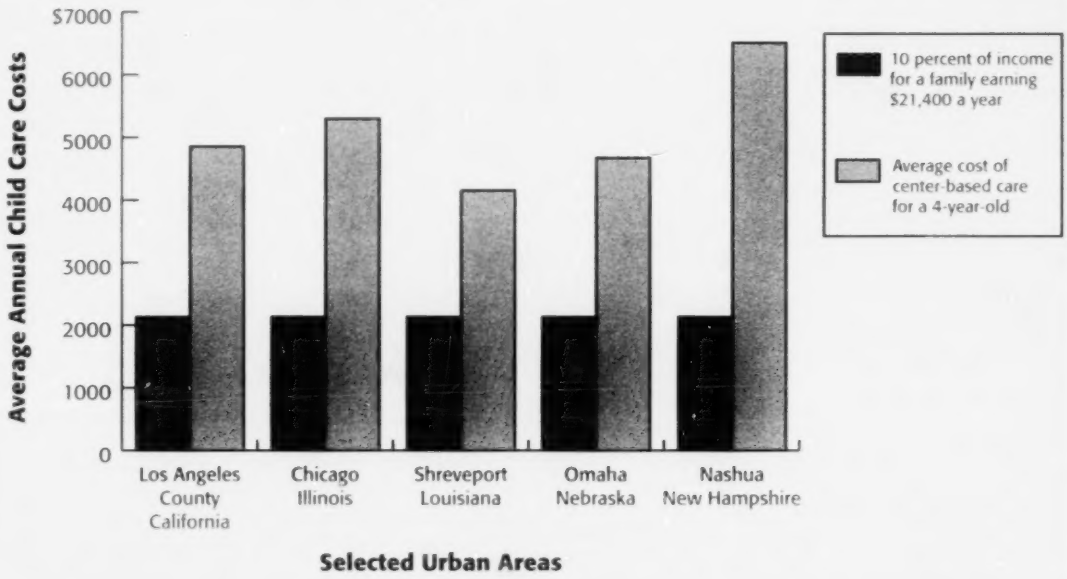
The high cost of care presents a challenge to all families, but it is particularly burdensome for low-income families. These families must have reliable child care so parents can get and keep the jobs they need to lift them out of—and stay out of—poverty. Since the new welfare system no longer assures them a safety net should they lose their jobs, safe and reliable child care has become increasingly important to their families' well-being.

High-quality care is also essential because it can support children's healthy development and can provide low-income children the extra boost they need to enter school ready to succeed. Yet, low-income families, who need child care to keep their jobs and help their children grow and learn, stretch their budgets as much as possible only to find that high-quality care is still out of reach.

If a low-income family with two parents working full time at the federal minimum wage ($21,400 a year before taxes) managed to devote 10 percent of their income to child care—higher than the 7 percent of income that non-poor families spend on average[12]—they would have $2,140 a year available. Given a low-income family's expenses for other essentials such as food, rent, and health care, it would be challenging to find even this much for child care in their budget. Moreover, as shown in the graph on the following page, if this family could budget $1 out of every $10 dollars of their income, they would still be thousands of dollars short of the amount needed to purchase average-priced care for their child in many communities (see Appendix, Table A-11 for data on the shortfall for families living in additional cities). High-quality care, which is often even more expensive, would be, in most cases, impossible to afford.

Low-Income Families Struggle to Afford Child Care

Shortfall Between What 10 Percent of Income Buys for Low-Income Parents and What Average-Price Child Care Costs in Selected Urban Areas



See Appendix, Table A-11 for source information.

Families facing high child care costs have few places to turn for help—only a limited number have access to help paying for child care. State and federal funds are so insufficient that only one out of 10 children in low-income working families who are eligible for this assistance under federal law receives it.[13] Families unable to get the assistance they need must often settle for less expensive, lower-quality care. A survey of parents on waiting lists in Santa Clara County, California, one-third of whom earned less than $10,000 annually, found that 42 percent of parents felt that their children's current child care providers had shortcomings in quality, and 47 percent reported that their child received sporadic individual attention.[14] In Ramsey County, Minnesota, a survey of families on the waiting list found that half would change their child care arrangement if they had assistance.[15]

The Dilemma: Child Care Costs Cannot Go Lower Without Jeopardizing Quality

The problem of high child care costs cannot be remedied by turning to child care providers and asking them to lower their prices, as they already operate on very tight budgets. Just as many working families are squeezing as much out of their limited budgets as possible for child care, child care providers too are tightening their belts as much as possible to limit expenses and have no room to cut costs further. Any additional cuts would lower the quality of care, which is already unacceptable in many programs.

The largest portion of a family child care home or child care center budget is dedicated to staff salaries, which are shockingly low as it is. The average salary of a child care worker is $14,820 per year.[16] Most child care providers also lack benefits such as health insurance or paid sick leave. The low salaries and lack of benefits generate high turnover rates among child care providers. Nationwide, about one-third of child care staff leave their centers each year.[17] This lack of staff continuity is very harmful to children's growth and development, as it breaks the stable relationship they need to have with their caregivers in order to feel safe and secure. Lowering salaries any further would make it even more difficult for child care programs to attract and retain qualified staff and for children to thrive.

Cutting back on the total number of staff in a child care center or family child care home would also diminish the quality of care. Child-staff ratios in many states already allow many child care centers and family child care homes to operate with far too many children per staff member to ensure that children receive adequate supervision and support. A decrease in staff would only make it more difficult for children to receive the one-on-one attention they need to build a strong foundation during their early years.

The remaining costs of operating a child care center or home must go to cover the cost of the facility, equipment, and materials. Children need a safe, roomy facility where they can play; playground equipment that is safe and sturdy; and materials, such as books, crayons, and paper, that allow for learning and creative activities. Yet, far too many programs are unable to invest in these essential components of a quality program. Cutting costs in these areas would further jeopardize children's safety and limit their learning opportunities.

When Quality Child Care Is Unaffordable, Children and Families Pay the Price

Parents shopping for child care find that good quality care cannot be found at a bargain cost—quality care often costs more. Unfortunately, families who are struggling to make ends meet cannot afford these prices, and, in many cases, have no alternative but to choose lower-priced care, which is mediocre at best and at worst could jeopardize a child's health and safety.

Both children and parents suffer from inadequate investments in child care. Parents cannot be reliable, productive workers without dependable child care. If they are dissatisfied with their child care arrangements, they will be distracted at work, worrying whether their children are safe and well cared for. And, worse yet, without a stable child care arrangement that they can count on each day, parents may be unable to keep their jobs and remain independent. A survey of low-income families on the waiting list for child care assistance in North Carolina found that about one out of four lost or had to quit their jobs while waiting.[18]

Child care also shapes the way children learn, think, and grow. The quality of care children receive has a particularly significant impact for children from low-income families who may need an extra boost to start school ready to succeed. If children do not receive the care they need to start them on the path to becoming healthy, productive citizens, it is not only the children and their families who suffer, but all of us as a society.

Addressing the High Cost of Care: A Need for Public Commitment

Neither parents nor child care providers can deal with the challenge of high child care costs on their own. The federal government, states, local communities, and the private sector must all play a stronger role in ensuring that families have access to affordable, quality child care.

Recognizing the link between a strong education and a productive workforce, this country has made a commitment to providing extensive public support for elementary, secondary, and higher education. Yet, the early years before children enter school lay the groundwork for much of their brain development and ability to be successful students. Given this connection, the country must move forward to strengthen our public commitment to early education.

Endnotes

[1] Kristin Smith, *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements, Fall 1995, Current Population Reports, P70-70.* Washington, DC: Census Bureau, October 2000.

[2] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *1998 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, 1999. Available on the Internet at stats.bls.gov/oes/na-tional/oes_nat.htm.

[3] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Access to Child Care for Low-Income Working Families.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999: i.

[4] U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P60-206, *Money and Income in the United States: 1998.* Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1999.

[5] Whirlpool Foundation, *Women: The New Providers.* New York: Families and Work Institute, May 1995.

[6] Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund using U.S. Census Bureau 1998 data reported in the *1999 Current Population Survey.*

[7] Census Bureau, *School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1996 (Update).* Washington, DC: Census Bureau, June 1998.

[8] Child care costs over the four-year period were calculated assuming that two years of care would be purchased at the price of infant care and two years at the price of care for a 4-year-old, since data were only available for children at ages 1 and 4. See Appendix, Table A-1 for more information. Costs over the four-year period were calculated from the raw data, and not the cost data presented in the Appendix, which are rounded to the nearest dollar.

[9] Annual school-age child care costs were calculated from hourly and/or weekly costs reported by resource and referral agencies for a survey by the Children's Defense Fund. The annual costs include costs for before- and after-school care during school days and costs for care during summer vacations and school holidays. In calculating annual school-age costs from hourly cost data, CDF assumed that children of working parents are in before- and after-school care for a total of 3.5 hours per day, 180 days per year, and in full-day care (8 hours per day) during 71 non-school weekdays (the remaining days would be either weekends or the parents' vacation time).

[10] Kristin Smith, *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements, Fall 1995, Current Population Reports, P70-70.* Washington, DC: Census Bureau, October 2000.

[11] Sandra L. Hofferth, April Brayfield, Sharon Deich, and Pamela Holcomb, *National Child Care Survey, 1990.* Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press, 1991.

[12] Kristin Smith, *Who's Minding the Kids? Child Care Arrangements, Fall 1995, Current Population Reports, P70-70.* Washington, DC: Census Bureau, October 2000.

[13] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Access to Child Care for Low-Income Working Families.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999: i.

[14] Casey Coonerty and Tamsin Levy, *Waiting for Child Care: How Do Parents Adjust to Scarce Options in Santa Clara County?* Berkeley, CA: Policy Analysis for California Education, 1998: 10.

[15] Deborah Shlick, Mary Daly, and Lee Bradford, *Faces on the Waiting List: Waiting for Child Care Assistance in Ramsey County.* Ramsey County, MN: Ramsey County Human Services, 1999: ii-iii. Survey conducted by the Minnesota Center for Survey Research at the University of Minnesota.

[16] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *1998 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, 1999. Available on the Internet at stats.bls.gov/oes/na-tional/oes_nat.htm.

[17] Marcy Whitebook, Carollee Howes, and Deborah Phillips, *Worthy Work, Unlivable Wages: The National Child Care Staffing Study, 1988-1997.* Washington, DC: Center for the Child Care Workforce, 1998.

[18] Jeffrey D. Lyons, Susan D. Russell, Christina Gilgor, and Amy H. Staples, *Child Care Subsidy: The Costs of Waiting.* Chapel Hill, NC: Day Care Services Association, September 1998.

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Appendix: Tables and Key Summary Points

Table A-1 Comparison of Average Annual Child Care Costs in Urban Area Centers to Average Annual Public College Tuition Costs

Table A-2 Child Care Centers: Average Annual Costs in Urban Areas

Table A-3 Child Care Centers: Average Annual Costs in Rural Areas

Table A-4 Child Care Centers: Average Annual Costs Statewide

Table A-5 Family Child Care: Average Annual Costs in Urban Areas

Table A-6 Family Child Care: Average Annual Costs in Rural Areas

Table A-7 Family Child Care: Average Annual Costs Statewide

Table A-8 School-Age Care: Average Annual Costs in Urban Areas

Table A-9 School-Age Care: Average Annual Costs in Rural Areas

Table A-10 School-Age Care: Average Annual Costs Statewide

Table A-11 Shortfall Between What 10 Percent of Income Buys for Low-Income Parents and What Average-Priced Child Care Costs in Urban Areas

Key Findings from Table A-1. Comparison of Child Care Costs to Public College Tuition Costs

- In every state, the cost of child care for an infant in an urban area center is more than the cost of public college tuition.
- In all states but Vermont, the cost of child care for a 4-year-old in an urban area center is more than the cost of public college tuition.
- In more than half of the states (27 of 50), the average cost of child care for an infant in an urban area center is more than twice the cost of public college tuition.
- In over one-quarter of the states (14 of 50), the average cost of child care for a 4-year-old in an urban area center is more than twice the cost of public college tuition.

Table A-1. Comparison of Average Annual Child Care Costs in Urban Area Centers to Average Annual Public College Tuition Costs

State	Urban area	Average annual cost in a child care center		Comparison of average child care costs to the average cost of public college tuition		
		For a 12-month-old	For a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of public college tuition	As percent of child care costs for a 12-month-old	As percent of child care costs for a 4-year-old
Alabama	Jefferson County (Birmingham)	$4,242	$3,672	$2,621	62%	71%
Alaska	Anchorage	7,176	6,019	2,769	39	46
Arizona	Tucson	4,965	4,352	2,158	43	50
Arkansas	Conway/Springdale	3,900	3,640	2,590	66	71
California	Los Angeles County	6,995	4,858	2,609	37	54
Colorado	Denver	6,760	5,096	2,685	40	53
Connecticut	Hartford	8,086	6,405	4,345	54	68
Delaware	New Castle County	6,297	5,510	4,462	71	81
Florida	Orange County	5,708	4,255	2,022	35	48
Georgia	Atlanta	6,032	4,992	2,442	40	49
Hawaii	Makiki	7,815	5,505	2,880	37	52
Idaho	Boise	5,881	4,814	2,380	40	49
Illinois	Chicago	8,840	5,304	3,845	43	72
Indiana*	Statewide	6,552	4,732	3,490	53	74
Iowa	Urban areas statewide	6,750	6,198	2,869	43	46
Kansas	Wichita	5,824	4,889	2,392	41	49
Kentucky	Louisville	4,992	4,368	2,516	50	58
Louisiana	Shreveport	4,680	4,160	2,379	51	57
Maine	Cumberland County	7,670	5,790	4,058	53	70
Maryland	Baltimore (city)	8,461	4,774	4,359	52	91
Massachusetts	Boston	12,978	8,121	4,012	31	49
Michigan	Detroit	6,268	4,830	4,277	68	89
Minnesota	St. Paul	10,414	7,436	3,866	37	52
Mississippi*	Statewide	3,692	3,380	2,859	77	85
Missouri	Kansas City metro area	6,604	4,784	3,550	54	74
Montana	Billings	5,720	4,680	2,795	49	60
Nebraska*	Omaha	5,720	4,680	2,627	46	56
Nevada	Reno	5,850	4,862	1,956	33	40
New Hampshire	Nashua	9,046	6,520	5,753	64	88
New Jersey	Trenton	6,610	5,252	4,951	75	94
New Mexico	Albuquerque	5,607	4,801	2,180	39	45
New York*	Rockland County	9,048	8,060	3,905	43	48
North Carolina*	Durham	6,968	5,876	1,958	28	33
North Dakota	Bismarck	4,961	4,627	2,686	54	58

(table continues)

Table A-1. Comparison of Average Annual Child Care Costs in Urban Area Centers to Average Annual Public College Tuition Costs (continued)

State	Urban area	Average annual cost in a child care center		Comparison of average child care costs to the average cost of public college tuition		
		For a 12-month-old	For a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of public college tuition	As percent of child care costs for a 12-month-old	As percent of child care costs for a 4-year-old
Ohio	Cincinnati	$7,240	$5,672	$4,258	59%	75%
Oklahoma	Tulsa, Oklahoma City metro area, Lawton	4,967	4,108	2,068	42	50
Oregon*	Urban areas	7,680	5,580	3,561	46	64
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh	7,384	6,188	5,327	72	86
Rhode Island*	Statewide	7,752	6,365	4,158	54	65
South Carolina	Columbia	4,004	3,900	3,520	88	90
South Dakota	Brookings, Clay, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, and Union Counties	4,846	4,243	3,038	63	72
Tennessee	Knoxville	5,200	4,420	2,495	48	56
Texas	Dallas	5,356	4,160	2,432	45	58
Utah	Salt Lake City	5,928	4,550	2,174	37	48
Vermont	Burlington	6,864	5,980	6,751	98	113
Virginia	Roanoke	6,136	4,857	4,160	68	86
Washington	King County (Seattle)	7,696	6,604	3,151	41	48
West Virginia	Urban areas statewide	5,538	4,238	2,337	42	55
Wisconsin*	Urban areas (excluding Dane and Milwaukee)	7,526	6,104	3,113	41	51
Wyoming	Cheyenne	4,160	4,056	2,330	56	57

*NOTES: Indiana, Mississippi and Rhode Island did not provide cost data for an urban area; therefore, statewide data are used instead.
New York did not provide data for an urban area, so data from a suburban area adjacent to New York City are used here.
North Carolina and Oregon provided median annual costs (which is the cost that half of providers charge more than and half charge less than) rather than average costs.
Nebraska and Wisconsin data are combined annual averages for center and family child care costs.

SOURCES: Data on public college tuition costs from U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), "Fall Enrollment" and "Institutional Characteristics" surveys. As reported in "Table 318.- Average undergraduate tuition and fees and room and board rates paid by full-time-equivalent students in degree-granting institutions, by control of institution and by state: 1997-98 and 1998-99" *Digest of Education Statistics, 1999*. NCES. May 2000.
http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2000/digest99/d99t318.html
Data for average tuition costs are preliminary data based on fall 1997 enrollments. Data are for the entire academic year and are average charges. Tuition is weighted by the number of full-time-equivalent undergraduates in 1997, but is not adjusted to reflect student residency.
Data on child care costs collected from local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000.

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Key Findings from Tables A-2 through A-4. Child Care Centers: Average Annual Costs

- The average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old in an urban area ranges from $3,640 in Arkansas to $8,121 in Massachusetts. In almost two-thirds of the cities for which we have data (30 of 47), the average annual cost is above $4,750. The average annual cost exceeds $5,500 in over one-third of the states (17 of 47, Table A-2).

- The average annual cost of center care for an infant in an urban area ranges from $3,900 in Arkansas to $12,978 in Massachusetts. In almost two-thirds of the states (30 of 47), the average annual cost is over $5,750. The average cost is over $6,750 per year in more than one-third of the states (19 of 47, Table A-2).

- The average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old in a rural area ranges from $2,556 in Nebraska to $7,150 in Alaska. In almost half of the states for which we have data (20 of 43), the average annual cost exceeds $4,000. In over one-third of rural areas (15 of 43), the average annual cost exceeds $4,500 (Table A-3).

- The average annual cost of center care for an infant in a rural area ranges from $3,380 in Arkansas, North Carolina and South Carolina to $7,475 in Alaska. In more than half of the states (25 of 43), the average annual cost is over $4,500. One-third (15 of 43) have average costs of more than $5,000 per year (Table A-3).

- Center care for a 4-year-old or an infant in an urban area can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars more per year than center care in a rural area, but there are exceptions. For example, the average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old in Cheyenne, Wyoming is $4,160 per year while the average annual cost in Campbell County is $4,524. Costs of center care for a 4-year-old average $4,858 per year in Los Angeles County, California, while costs average $5,623 per year in Fresno County (Tables A-2 and A-3).

- The statewide average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old ranges from $3,380 in Mississippi to $7,389 in Alaska. In more than half of the states for which we have data (21 of 37), the average annual cost is over $4,500. About one-quarter of the states (9 of 37) have statewide average costs of more than $5,500 per year (Table A-4).

- The statewide average annual cost of center care for an infant ranges from $3,692 in Mississippi to $9,509 in Minnesota. In more than half of the states (21 of 37), the average cost exceeds $5,500 per year. In nearly one-third of the states (12 of 37), the average statewide cost of center care for an infant is over $6,500. In seven states, the average cost is more than $7,500 per year (Table A-4).

Table A-2. Child Care Centers: Average Annual Costs in Urban Areas

State	Urban area (47 urban areas total)	Average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old
Alabama	Jefferson County (Birmingham)	$3,672	$4,242
Alaska	Anchorage	6,019	7,176
Arizona	Tucson	4,352	4,965
Arkansas	Conway/Springdale	3,640	3,900
California	Los Angeles County	4,858	6,995
Colorado	Denver	5,096	6,760
Connecticut	Hartford	6,405	8,086
Delaware	New Castle County	5,510	6,297
Florida	Orange County	4,255	5,708
Georgia	Atlanta	4,992	6,032
Hawaii	Makiki	5,505	7,815
Idaho	Boise	4,814	5,881
Illinois	Chicago	5,304	8,840
Indiana		not available	
Iowa	Urban areas statewide	6,198	6,750
Kansas	Wichita	4,889	5,824
Kentucky	Louisville	4,368	4,992
Louisiana	Shreveport	4,160	4,680
Maine	Cumberland County	5,790	7,670
Maryland	Baltimore (city)	4,774	8,461
Massachusetts	Boston	8,121	12,978
Michigan	Detroit	4,830	6,268
Minnesota	St. Paul	7,436	10,414
Mississippi		not available	
Missouri	Kansas City metro area	4,784	6,604
Montana	Billings	4,680	5,720
Nebraska*	Omaha	4,680	5,720
Nevada	Reno	4,862	5,850
New Hampshire	Nashua	6,520	9,046
New Jersey	Trenton	5,252	6,610
New Mexico*	Albuquerque	4,801	5,607
New York*	Rockland County	8,060	9,048
North Carolina*	Durham	5,876	6,968
North Dakota	Bismarck	4,627	4,961
Ohio	Cincinnati	5,672	7,240
Oklahoma	Tulsa, Oklahoma City metro area, Lawton	4,108	4,967
Oregon*	Urban areas	5,580	7,680
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh	6,188	7,384
Rhode Island		not available	

(table continues)

Table A-2. Child Care Centers: Average Annual Costs in Urban Areas (continued)

State	Urban area (47 urban areas total)	Average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old
South Carolina	Columbia	$3,900	$4,004
South Dakota	Brookings, Clay, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, and Union Counties	4,243	4,846
Tennessee	Knoxville	4,420	5,200
Texas	Dallas	4,160	5,356
Utah	Salt Lake City	4,550	5,928
Vermont	Burlington	5,980	6,864
Virginia	Roanoke	4,857	6,136
Washington	King County (Seattle)	6,604	7,696
West Virginia	Huntington, Charleston, Parkersburg	4,238	5,538
Wisconsin*	Urban areas (excluding Dane and Milwaukee)	6,104	7,526
Wyoming	Cheyenne	4,056	4,160

*NOTES: Nebraska and Wisconsin data are combined annual averages for center and family child care costs.
New York data are from a suburban county adjacent to New York City.
North Carolina and Oregon data are median annual costs rather than average annual costs.

SOURCE: Data collected from local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000.

Table A-3. Child Care Centers: Average Annual Costs in Rural Areas

State	Rural area (43 urban areas total)	Average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old
Alabama	Walter and Blount Counties	$3,215	$3,549
Alaska	Kodiak	7,150	7,475
Arizona	Cochise County	3,346	4,853
Arkansas	NE and NW Arkansas	3,120	3,380
California	Fresno County	5,623	7,188
Colorado	Washington County	3,380	3,900
Connecticut	Plainfield	5,525	6,240
Delaware	Sussex County	3,815	4,178
Florida	Santa Rosa County	3,662	4,801
Georgia	Tifton	3,536	3,640
Hawaii	Hilo	4,846	5,280
Idaho	SE Idaho Counties	3,316	3,908
Illinois	Sangamon County	4,628	6,032
Indiana		not available	
Iowa	Rural areas statewide	5,018	5,278
Kansas	Finney County-Garden City	4,108	4,680
Kentucky	Shelby County	3,848	4,160
Louisiana	Bienville Parish	3,380	3,900
Maine	Somerset County	3,900	4,680
Maryland	Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties	3,894	5,216
Massachusetts		not available	
Michigan	Lake	4,677	5,200
Minnesota	Clay County	4,712	5,850
Mississippi		not available	
Missouri	St. Joseph and SE Missouri	3,016	3,536
Montana	Stillwater County	4,160	4,680
Nebraska*	Kearney	2,556	3,570
Nevada	Fallon	4,862	4,758
New Hampshire	Cheshire County	5,595	6,813
New Jersey		not available	
New Mexico		not available	
New York	Genesee County	5,460	5,720
North Carolina*	Scotland County	3,380	3,380
North Dakota	Linton	3,510	3,510

(table continues)

Table A-3. Child Care Centers: Average Annual Costs in Rural Areas (continued)

State	Rural area (43 urban areas total)	Average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old
Ohio	Preble County	$4,049	$4,628
Oklahoma	Rural areas statewide	3,057	3,540
Oregon*	Rural areas	4,188	5,280
Pennsylvania	Cumberland County	6,034	6,914
Rhode Island		not available	
South Carolina	Lee County	3,380	3,380
South Dakota	Rural areas statewide	3,536	3,744
Tennessee	Sevierville	3,380	3,900
Texas	Ellis	3,068	4,264
Utah	Six counties	3,474	3,987
Vermont		not available	
Virginia	West Point	4,680	5,980
Washington	Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties	4,524	4,992
West Virginia	Rural areas statewide	4,056	4,758
Wisconsin*	Rural areas statewide	4,698	5,816
Wyoming	Campbell County	3,276	4,524

*NOTES: Nebraska and Wisconsin data are combined center and family child care costs.
North Carolina and Oregon data are median costs rather than average costs.

SOURCE: Data collected from local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000.

Table A-4. Child Care Centers: Average Annual Costs Statewide

State (37 states total)	Average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old
Alabama	not available	
Alaska	$7,389	$7,657
Arizona	not available	
Arkansas	3,900	4,420
California	5,708	8,104
Colorado	5,408	6,760
Connecticut	6,818	8,697
Delaware	4,955	5,522
Florida	4,079	5,133
Georgia	not available	
Hawaii	5,035	6,772
Idaho	3,744	3,951
Illinois	not available	
Indiana	4,732	6,552
Iowa	5,512	5,845
Kansas	5,616	7,696
Kentucky	3,640	4,108
Louisiana	3,900	4,420
Maine	4,899	5,527
Maryland	5,272	8,540
Massachusetts	not available	
Michigan	5,640	7,120
Minnesota	7,055	9,509
Mississippi	3,380	3,692
Missouri	4,118	5,239
Montana	not available	
Nebraska*	3,759	5,722
Nevada	4,862	5,850
New Hampshire	5,765	7,162
New Jersey	not available	
New Mexico	not available	
New York	not available	
North Carolina*	3,900	4,680
North Dakota	4,521	4,521

(table continues)

Table A-4. Child Care Centers: Average Annual Costs Statewide (continued)

State (37 states total)	Average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old
Ohio	$4,295	$5,373
Oklahoma	3,757	4,374
Oregon*	4,920	6,480
Pennsylvania	not available	
Rhode Island	6,365	7,752
South Carolina	3,744	4,056
South Dakota	4,098	4,368
Tennessee	not available	
Texas	3,796	4,316
Utah	not available	
Vermont	not available	
Virginia	5,200	6,136
Washington	5,408	6,136
West Virginia	3,796	5,148
Wisconsin*	5,081	6,283
Wyoming	4,368	4,680

*NOTES: Nebraska and Wisconsin data are combined center and family child care costs.
North Carolina and Oregon data are median costs rather than average costs.
Wisconsin data do not include data from Dane or Milwaukee.

SOURCE: Data collected from local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000.

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Key Findings from Tables A-5 through A-7. Family Child Care: Average Annual Costs

- In general, family child care is a few hundred dollars less expensive than center care. However, in some instances, family child care is more expensive. For example, in Conway and Springdale, Arkansas, the average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old is $3,640 while family child care costs an average of $3,900 per year. The average annual cost of center care for an infant in Plainfield, Connecticut is $6,240 while family child care costs there average $6,456 per year (Tables A-2, A-3, A-5, and A-6).

- The average annual cost of family child care for a 4-year-old in an urban area ranges from $3,120 in Idaho to $7,623 in New York. More than half of the states for which we have data (23 of 43) have average annual costs over $4,500, including one-third of the states (14 of 43) with costs over $5,000 (Table A-5).

- The average annual cost of family child care for an infant in an urban area ranges from $3,380 in Idaho to $7,935 in New York. In half of the states (21 of 43), average annual costs exceed $5,000. The average cost is over $5,500 per year in more than one-third of the states (15 of 43, Table A-5).

- The average annual cost of family child care for a 4-year-old in a rural area ranges from $2,556 in Nebraska to $7,475 in Alaska. More than half of the states for which we have data (23 of 40) have average costs of over $3,600 per year. In almost one-third of the states (13 of 40), the average annual costs are over $4,000 (Table A-6).

- The average annual cost of family child care for an infant in a rural area ranges from $2,990 in Missouri to $7,475 in Alaska. In more than half of the states (23 of 40), average annual costs are over $4,000. In one-quarter of the states (11 of 40), average annual costs are above $4,500 (Table A-6).

- The statewide average annual cost of family child care for a 4-year-old ranges from $2,340 in Mississippi to $6,694 in Connecticut. In more than half of the states (20 of 35), the average annual cost exceeds $4,000. The statewide average annual cost is over $4,500 in one-third of the states (12 of 35, Table A-7).

- The statewide average annual cost of family child care for an infant ranges from $2,600 in Mississippi to $7,410 in Alaska. More than half of the states (20 of 35) have average costs over $4,500 per year. The statewide average annual cost is over $5,000 in nearly one-third of the states (12 of 35, Table A-7).

Table A-5. Family Child Care: Average Annual Costs in Urban Areas

State	Urban area (43 urban areas total)	Average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old
Alabama	Jefferson County (Birmingham)	$3,615	$3,742
Alaska	Anchorage	5,788	6,450
Arizona	Tucson	4,144	4,197
Arkansas	Springdale	3,900	4,680
California	Los Angeles County	5,033	5,533
Colorado	Denver County	5,200	5,668
Connecticut	Hartford	5,086	5,557
Delaware	New Castle County	4,903	5,184
Florida	Orange County	4,142	4,549
Georgia		not available	
Hawaii	Makiki	5,113	5,283
Idaho	Boise	3,120	3,380
Illinois	Chicago	5,044	5,616
Indiana		not available	
Iowa	Urban areas statewide	4,716	4,950
Kansas	Wichita	4,140	4,636
Kentucky	Louisville	4,160	4,524
Louisiana	Shreveport	not available	
Maine	Cumberland County	4,909	5,215
Maryland	Baltimore (city)	4,605	5,613
Massachusetts	Boston	7,259	7,726
Michigan	Detroit	4,547	5,355
Minnesota	St. Paul	5,294	6,237
Mississippi		not available	
Missouri	Kansas City metro area	4,732	5,512
Montana	Billings	3,900	4,160
Nebraska*	Omaha	4,680	5,720
Nevada	Reno/Sparks	4,420	4,550
New Hampshire	Nashua	6,058	6,807
New Jersey	Trenton	4,279	4,856
New Mexico	Albuquerque	4,042	4,380
New York*	Rockland County	7,623	7,935
North Carolina*	Durham	5,200	5,980
North Dakota	Bismarck	4,161	4,175

(table continues)

Table A-5. Family Child Care: Average Annual Costs in Urban Areas (continued)

State	Urban area (43 urban areas total)	Average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old
Ohio	Cincinnati	$4,605	$5,115
Oklahoma	Tulsa, Oklahoma City metro area, and Lawton	3,445	3,973
Oregon*	Urban areas	4,560	4,800
Pennsylvania		not available	
Rhode Island		not available	
South Carolina	Columbia	3,588	3,640
South Dakota	Brookings, Clay, Lawrence, Minnehaha, Pennington, and Union Counties	3,640	3,952
Tennessee	Knoxville	3,900	4,420
Texas	Dallas County	4,160	4,784
Utah	Salt Lake City	4,290	4,810
Vermont	Burlington	5,096	5,304
Virginia	Roanoke	3,740	3,755
Washington	King County (Seattle)	5,356	6,344
West Virginia		not available	
Wisconsin*	Urban areas (excluding Dane and Milwaukee)	6,104	7,526
Wyoming	Cheyenne	4,090	4,224

*NOTES: Nebraska and Wisconsin data are combined center and family child care costs.
New York data are from a suburban county adjacent to New York City.
North Carolina and Oregon data are median costs, rather than average costs.

SOURCE: Data collected from local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000.

Table A-6. Family Child Care: Average Annual Costs in Rural Areas

State	Rural area (40 rural areas total)	Average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old
Alabama	Walter and Blount Counties	$3,239	$3,246
Alaska	Kodiak	7,475	7,475
Arizona	Cochise County	3,914	4,043
Arkansas	NE and NW Arkansas	2,860	3,380
California	Fresno County	4,819	4,993
Colorado	Yuma County	3,536	3,536
Connecticut	Plainfield	6,292	6,456
Delaware	Sussex County	3,527	3,685
Florida	Santa Rosa County	3,807	4,085
Georgia		not available	
Hawaii	Hilo	3,907	3,932
Idaho	Rural SE Idaho Counties	3,475	4,142
Illinois	Sangamon County	3,952	4,316
Indiana		not available	
Iowa	Rural areas statewide	4,233	4,248
Kansas	Finney County-Garden City	3,380	4,160
Kentucky	Shelby County	3,692	4,160
Louisiana	Bienville Parish	not available	
Maine	Somerset County	3,120	3,692
Maryland	Allegany, Garrett, Washington Counties	3,943	4,423
Massachusetts		not available	
Michigan	Lake	4,459	4,681
Minnesota	Clay County	4,219	4,519
Mississippi		not available	
Missouri	St. Joseph and SE Missouri	2,626	2,990
Montana	Stillwater County	3,640	3,900
Nebraska*	Kearney	2,556	3,570
Nevada	Carson City	4,550	4,550
New Hampshire	Cheshire County	4,374	4,562
New Jersey		not available	
New Mexico		not available	
New York	Genesee County	4,680	4,940
North Carolina*	Scotland County	3,380	3,380

(table continues)

Table A-6. Family Child Care: Average Annual Costs in Rural Areas (continued)

State	Rural area (40 rural areas total)	Average annual cost of center care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of center care for a 12-month-old
Ohio	Preble County	$4,056	$3,640
Oklahoma	Rural areas statewide	2,933	3,315
Oregon*	Rural areas	4,020	4,380
Pennsylvania		not available	
Rhode Island		not available	
South Carolina	Lee County	3,120	3,120
South Dakota	Rural areas statewide	3,120	3,245
Tennessee	Sevierville	3,380	3,640
Texas	Ellis County	3,276	3,588
Utah	Six counties	3,648	4,019
Vermont	Hinesburg and Chittenden	4,680	4,732
Virginia	West Point	3,120	4,160
Washington	Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties	3,692	4,420
West Virginia		not available	
Wisconsin*	Rural areas statewide	4,698	5,816
Wyoming	Campbell County	3,992	4,517

*NOTES: Nebraska and Wisconsin data are combined center and family child care costs.
North Carolina and Oregon data are median costs, rather than average costs.

SOURCE: Data collected from local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000.

Table A-7. Family Child Care: Average Annual Costs Statewide

State (35 states total)	Average annual cost of family child care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of family child care for a 12-month-old
Alabama	not available	
Alaska	$6,344	$7,410
Arizona	not available	
Arkansas	3,380	3,900
California	5,318	5,787
Colorado	4,524	4,888
Connecticut	6,694	7,022
Delaware	4,398	4,645
Florida	4,193	4,627
Georgia	not available	
Hawaii	4,713	4,741
Idaho	3,474	3,658
Illinois	not available	
Indiana	3,900	4,316
Iowa	4,467	4,592
Kansas	3,900	4,420
Kentucky	3,432	3,588
Louisiana	not available	
Maine	3,982	4,340
Maryland	4,799	5,787
Massachusetts	not available	
Michigan	5,248	5,505
Minnesota	5,046	5,828
Mississippi	2,340	2,600
Missouri	3,666	4,108
Montana	not available	
Nebraska*	3,759	5,722
Nevada	4,680	4,940
New Hampshire	5,381	5,866
New Jersey	not available	
New Mexico	not available	
New York	not available	
North Carolina*	3,380	3,640
North Dakota	4,108	4,114

(table continues)

Table A-7. Family Child Care: Average Annual Costs Statewide (continued)

State (35 states total)	Average annual cost of family child care for a 4-year-old	Average annual cost of family child care for a 12-month-old
Ohio	$4,423	$4,702
Oklahoma	3,201	3,708
Oregon*	4,200	4,680
Pennsylvania	not available	
Rhode Island	5,377	5,854
South Carolina	3,380	3,432
South Dakota	3,390	3,598
Tennessee	not available	
Texas	3,640	3,900
Utah	not available	
Vermont	not available	
Virginia	3,900	5,200
Washington	4,420	5,148
West Virginia	not available	
Wisconsin*	5,081	6,283
Wyoming	4,154	4,390

*NOTES: Nebraska and Wisconsin data are combined center and family child care costs.
North Carolina and Oregon data are median costs, rather than average costs.
Wisconsin data do not include data from Dane or Milwaukee.

SOURCE: Data collected from local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000.

Key Findings from Tables A-8 through A-10. School-Age Care: Average Annual Costs

- The average annual cost of care for a school-age child in an urban area center is over $3,000 in two-thirds of the states for which we have data (29 of 44) and over $3,500 in one-third of the states (15 of 44, Table A-8).

- The average annual cost of family child care for a school-age child in an urban area is over $3,000 in half of the states for which we have data (20 of 40). In one-quarter of the states (10 of 40), average costs exceed $4,000 per year (Table A-8).

- In half of the rural areas for which we have data (19 of 39), the average annual cost of care for a school-age child in a center is more than $2,500 and in nearly one-third of the states (12 of 39), average annual costs are above $3,000 (Table A-9).

- The average annual cost of family child care for a school-age child in a rural area is over $2,500 in almost half of the states (17 of 37, Table A-9).

Table A-8. School-Age Care: Average Annual Costs in Urban Areas

State	Urban area (45 urban areas total)	Average annual cost for center care for a school-age child	Average annual cost for family child care for a school-age child
Alabama	Jefferson County (Birmingham)	$3,033	$3,541
Alaska	Anchorage	not available	2,300
Arizona	Tucson	2,444	not available
Arkansas	Conway/Springdale	2,396	2,995
California	Los Angeles County	4,086	3,568
Colorado	Denver	4,940	3,120
Connecticut	Hartford	4,493	4,181
Delaware	New Castle County	3,145	2,740
Florida	Pinellas County	2,345	2,860
Georgia	Atlanta	3,834	not available
Hawaii*		not available	
Idaho	Boise	4,445	3,247
Illinois	Chicago	3,328	5,092
Indiana		not available	
Iowa	Urban areas statewide	2,288	2,108
Kansas	Wichita	2,612	2,444
Kentucky	Louisville	3,295	3,402
Louisiana	Shreveport	2,791	not available
Maine	Cumberland County	3,172	2,582
Maryland	Baltimore (city)	3,618	4,121
Massachusetts	Boston	4,895	4,875
Michigan	Detroit	2,192	2,516
Minnesota	St. Paul	6,433	4,073
Mississippi		not available	
Missouri	Kansas City Metro Area	3,588	3,172
Montana	Billings	3,295	2,995
Nebraska*	Omaha	3,295	3,295
Nevada	Reno	2,492	2,576
New Hampshire	Nashua	4,193	4,624
New Jersey	Trenton	2,444	3,594
New Mexico		not available	
New York*	Rockland County	3,917	5,990
North Carolina*	Durham	2,860	2,652
North Dakota	Bismarck	3,211	4,152
Ohio	Cincinnati	5,463	3,199
Oklahoma	Tulsa, Oklahoma City metro area, Lawton	3,311	2,863
Oregon*	Urban areas	2,995	2,660
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh	3,380	not available
Rhode Island		not available	

(table continues)

Table A-8. School-Age Care: Average Annual Costs in Urban Areas (continued)

State	Urban area (45 urban areas total)	Average annual cost for center care for a school-age child	Average annual cost for family child care for a school-age child
South Carolina	Columbia	$3,594	$2,995
South Dakota	Brookings, Clay, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, and Union Counties	1,869	2,097
Tennessee	Knoxville	3,423	3,765
Texas	Dallas	3,055	2,995
Utah	Salt Lake City	2,396	2,396
Vermont	Burlington	3,081	4,193
Virginia	Roanoke	2,971	2,396
Washington	King County (Seattle)	3,965	2,995
West Virginia	Huntington, Charleston, Parkersburg	3,432	not available
Wisconsin*	Urban areas (excluding Dane and Milwaukee)	4,289	4,289
Wyoming	Cheyenne	1,905	1,881

*NOTES: Hawaii's Department of Education funds the "A+" After-School Program in every school in the state. The program is available to all parents on a sliding fee scale basis.
Nebraska and Wisconsin data are combined center and family child care costs.
New York data are from a suburban county adjacent to New York City.
North Carolina and Oregon data are median costs, rather than average costs.

SOURCE: Annual costs were calculated from hourly and/or weekly costs reported by local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000. The annual costs include costs for before- and after-school care during school days and costs for care during summer vacations and school holidays. In converting hourly school-age costs to annual costs, CDF assumed that children of working parents are in before- and after-school care for a total of 3.5 hours per day, 180 days per year and in full-day care (8 hours per day) during 71 non-school weekdays. (The remaining days would be either weekends or the parents' vacation time.)

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Table A-9. School-Age Care: Average Annual Costs in Rural Areas

State	Rural area (41 rural areas total)	Average annual cost for center care for a school-age child	Average annual cost for family child care for a school-age child
Alabama	Walter and Blount Counties	$3,214	$3,116
Alaska	Kodiak	3,534	3,977
Arizona	Cochise County	2,276	not available
Arkansas	NE and NW Arkansas	2,396	1,198
California	Fresno County	2,286	3,091
Colorado	Washington County	not available	1,976
Connecticut	Plainfield	2,468	3,354
Delaware	Sussex County	2,122	2,325
Florida	Highlands County	1,769	2,165
Georgia	Tifton	2,396	not available
Hawaii*		not available	
Idaho	SE Idaho Counties	3,989	1,498
Illinois	Sangamon County	4,193	3,091
Indiana		not available	
Iowa	Rural areas statewide	2,300	2,204
Kansas	Finney County-Garden City	2,276	2,097
Kentucky	Shelby County	3,043	2,743
Louisiana		not available	
Maine	Somerset County	1,430	1,716
Maryland	Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties	3,019	2,875
Massachusetts		not available	
Michigan	Lake	1,198	1,665
Minnesota	Clay County	2,995	2,240
Mississippi		not available	
Missouri	St. Joseph and SE Missouri	2,228	1,917
Montana	Stillwater County	2,995	2,696
Nebraska*	Kearney	1,857	1,857
Nevada	Fallon (centers)/Carson City (family child care)	2,037	1,797
New Hampshire	Cheshire County	3,654	3,199
New Jersey		not available	
New Mexico		not available	
New York	Genesee County	3,091	2,696
North Carolina*	Scotland County	1,820	not available
North Dakota	Linton	3,510	3,488

(table continues)

Table A-9. School-Age Care: Average Annual Costs in Rural Areas (continued)

State	Rural area (41 rural areas total)	Average annual cost for center care for a school-age child	Average annual cost for family child care for a school-age child
Ohio	Preble County	$3,438	$1,917
Oklahoma	Rural areas statewide	2,773	2,699
Oregon*	Rural areas	2,396	2,097
Pennsylvania	Cumberland County	3,048	not available
Rhode Island		not available	
South Carolina	Lee County	2,396	2,396
South Dakota	Rural areas statewide	1,797	1,797
Tennessee	Sevierville	2,738	3,423
Texas	Ellis	2,576	2,696
Utah	Six counties	2,504	2,168
Vermont	Hinesburg and Chittenden	not available	3,055
Virginia	West Point	2,860	2,600
Washington	Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties	2,097	2,061
West Virginia		not available	
Wisconsin*	Rural areas statewide	3,127	3,127
Wyoming	Campbell County	1,701	1,869

*NOTES: Hawaii's Department of Education funds the "A+" After-School Program in every school in the state. The program is available to all parents on a sliding fee scale basis.
Nebraska and Wisconsin data are combined center and family child care costs.
North Carolina and Oregon data are median costs, rather than average costs.

SOURCE: Annual costs were calculated from hourly and/or weekly costs reported by local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000. The annual costs include costs for before- and after-school care during school days and costs for care during summer vacations and school holidays. In converting hourly school-age costs to annual costs, CDF assumed that children of working parents are in before- and after-school care for a total of 3.5 hours per day, 180 days per year and in full-day care (8 hours per day) during 71 non-school weekdays. (The remaining days would be either weekends or the parents' vacation time.)

Table A-10. School-Age Care: Average Annual Costs Statewide

State (35 states total)	Average annual cost of center care for a school-age child	Average annual cost of family child care for a school-age child
Alabama	not available	
Alaska	$4,481	$2,348
Arizona	not available	
Arkansas	2,396	2,396
California	3,729	3,238
Colorado	4,420	not available
Connecticut	4,792	4,528
Delaware	2,783	2,614
Florida	1,936	2,084
Georgia	not available	
Hawaii*	not available	
Idaho	4,576	2,396
Illinois	not available	
Indiana	2,912	2,496
Iowa	2,300	2,156
Kansas	2,696	2,276
Kentucky	not available	
Louisiana	2,791	not available
Maine	2,597	2,495
Maryland	4,253	4,025
Massachusetts	not available	
Michigan	2,600	2,576
Minnesota	5,738	3,594
Mississippi	2,132	1,404
Missouri	3,139	2,887
Montana	not available	
Nebraska*	2,707	2,707
Nevada	2,396	2,097
New Hampshire	4,313	3,774
New Jersey	not available	
New Mexico	not available	
New York	not available	
North Carolina*	2,080	1,820
North Dakota	3,640	3,295

(table continues)

Table A-10. School-Age Care: Average Annual Costs Statewide (continued)

State (35 states total)	Average annual cost of center care for a school-age child	Average annual cost of family child care for a school-age child
Ohio	$4,013	$3,019
Oklahoma	3,086	2,795
Oregon*	2,396	2,097
Pennsylvania	not available	
Rhode Island	4,176	3,143
South Carolina	3,594	3,594
South Dakota	2,360	1,953
Tennessee	not available	
Texas	2,875	2,396
Utah	not available	
Vermont	not available	
Virginia	2,971	2,396
Washington	3,402	2,456
West Virginia	3,432	not available
Wisconsin*	3,438	3,438
Wyoming	1,965	1,941

*NOTES: Hawaii's Department of Education funds the "A+" After-School Program in every school in the state. The program is available to all parents on a sliding fee scale basis.
Nebraska and Wisconsin data are combined center and family child care costs.
North Carolina and Oregon data are median costs, rather than average annual costs.
Wisconsin data do not include data from Dane or Milwaukee.

SOURCE: Annual costs were calculated from hourly and/or weekly costs reported by local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000. The annual costs include costs for before- and after-school care during school days and costs for care during summer vacations and school holidays. In converting hourly school-age costs to annual costs, CDF assumed that children of working parents are in before- and after-school care for a total of 3.5 hours per day, 180 days per year and in full-day care (8 hours per day) during 71 non-school weekdays. (The remaining days would be either weekends or the parents' vacation time.)

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Key Findings from Table A-11. Shortfall Between What 10 Percent of Income Buys for Low-Income Parents and What Average-Priced Child Care Costs in Urban Areas

- In all states but one, the average annual cost of care for a 4-year-old child in an urban area center would be at least $1,500 more than a two-parent family with both parents working full-time at minimum wage ($21,400 per year before taxes) could afford if they spent 10 percent of their income ($2,140 per year) on child care.

- In every state but one, the average annual cost of care for two children (a 4-year-old and a 12-month-old) in an urban area center would be over $5,000 more than a two-parent family with both parents working full-time at minimum wage ($21,400 per year before taxes) could afford if they spent 10 percent of their income ($2,140 per year) on child care.

- In two-thirds of the states (34 of 50), the average annual cost of care for a 4-year-old child in an urban area center would be over $2,500 more than a two-parent family with both parents working full-time at minimum wage ($21,400 per year before taxes) could afford if they spent 10 percent of their income ($2,140) on child care.

- In two-thirds of the states (35 of 50), the average annual cost of center care for two children (a 4-year-old and a 12-month-old) in an urban area would be over $8,000 more than a two-parent family with both parents working full-time at minimum wage ($21,400 per year before taxes) could afford if they spent 10 percent of their income ($2,140 per year) on child care. In over one-third of the states (19 of 50), center care for two children would be at least $10,000 above the amount that two working parents could afford.

Table A-11. Shortfall Between What 10 Percent of Income Buys for Low-Income Parents and What Average-Priced Child Care Costs in Urban Areas

State	Urban area	Average annual cost in a child care center: For a 4-year-old	Average annual cost in a child care center: For a 12-month-old and a 4-year-old	10 percent of income for a two-parent family with both parents working full time at minimum wage ($21,400/yr)	Shortfall between what 10 percent of income buys for a low-income parent and the average annual cost of child care in a center: For one child	Shortfall between what 10 percent of income buys for a low-income parent and the average annual cost of child care in a center: For two children
Alabama	Jefferson County (Birmingham)	$3,672	$7,914	$2,140	-$1,532	-$5,774
Alaska	Anchorage	6,019	13,195	2,140	-3,879	-11,055
Arizona	Tucson	4,352	9,317	2,140	-2,212	-7,177
Arkansas	Conway/Springdale	3,640	7,540	2,140	-1,500	-5,400
California	Los Angeles County	4,858	11,852	2,140	-2,718	-9,712
Colorado	Denver	5,096	11,856	2,140	-2,956	-9,716
Connecticut	Hartford	6,405	14,491	2,140	-4,265	-12,351
Delaware	New Castle County	5,510	11,807	2,140	-3,370	-9,667
Florida	Orange County	4,255	9,963	2,140	-2,115	-7,823
Georgia	Atlanta	4,992	11,024	2,140	-2,852	-8,884
Hawaii	Makiki	5,505	13,320	2,140	-3,365	-11,180
Idaho	Boise	4,814	10,695	2,140	-2,674	-8,555
Illinois	Chicago	5,304	14,144	2,140	-3,164	-12,004
Indiana*	Statewide	4,732	11,284	2,140	-2,592	-9,144
Iowa	Urban areas statewide	6,198	12,948	2,140	-4,058	-10,808
Kansas	Wichita	4,889	10,713	2,140	-2,749	-8,573
Kentucky	Louisville	4,368	9,360	2,140	-2,228	-7,220
Louisiana	Shreveport	4,160	8,840	2,140	-2,020	-6,700
Maine	Cumberland County	5,790	13,460	2,140	-3,650	-11,320
Maryland	Baltimore	4,774	13,235	2,140	-2,634	-11,095
Massachusetts	Boston	8,121	21,100	2,140	-5,981	-18,960
Michigan	Detroit	4,830	11,098	2,140	-2,690	-8,958
Minnesota	St. Paul	7,436	17,850	2,140	-5,296	-15,710
Mississippi*	Statewide	3,380	7,072	2,140	-1,240	-4,932
Missouri	Kansas City metro area	4,784	11,388	2,140	-2,644	-9,248
Montana	Billings	4,680	10,400	2,140	-2,540	-8,260
Nebraska	Omaha	4,680	10,400	2,140	-2,540	-8,260
Nevada	Reno	4,862	10,712	2,140	-2,722	-8,572
New Hampshire	Nashua	6,520	15,566	2,140	-4,380	-13,426
New Jersey	Trenton	5,252	11,862	2,140	-3,112	-9,722
New Mexico	Albuquerque	4,801	10,408	2,140	-2,661	-8,268
New York*	Rockland County	8,060	17,108	2,140	-5,920	-14,968

(table continues)

Table A-11. Shortfall Between What 10 Percent of Income Buys for Low-Income Parents and What Average-Priced Child Care Costs in Urban Areas (continued)

State	Urban area	Average annual cost in a child care center: For a 4-year-old	Average annual cost in a child care center: For a 12-month-old and a 4-year-old	10 percent of income for a two-parent family with both parents working full time at minimum wage ($21,400/yr)	Shortfall between what 10 percent of income buys for a low-income parent and the average annual cost of child care in a center: For one child	Shortfall between what 10 percent of income buys for a low-income parent and the average annual cost of child care in a center: For two children
North Carolina*	Durham	$5,876	$12,844	$2,140	-$3,736	-$10,704
North Dakota	Bismarck	4,627	9,588	2,140	-2,487	-7,448
Ohio	Cincinnati	5,672	12,913	2,140	-3,532	-10,773
Oklahoma	Tulsa, Oklahoma City metro area, Lawton	4,108	9,075	2,140	-1,968	-6,935
Oregon*	Urban areas	5,580	13,260	2,140	-3,440	-11,120
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh	6,188	13,572	2,140	-4,048	-11,432
Rhode Island*	Statewide	6,365	14,116	2,140	-4,225	-11,976
South Carolina	Columbia	3,900	7,904	2,140	-1,760	-5,764
South Dakota	Brookings, Clay, Lawrence, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Pennington, and Union Counties	4,243	9,090	2,140	-2,103	-6,950
Tennessee	Knoxville	4,420	9,620	2,140	-2,280	-7,480
Texas	Dallas	4,160	9,516	2,140	-2,020	-7,376
Utah	Salt Lake City	4,550	10,478	2,140	-2,410	-8,338
Vermont	Burlington	5,980	12,844	2,140	-3,840	-10,704
Virginia	Roanoke	4,857	10,993	2,140	-2,717	-8,853
Washington	King County (Seattle)	6,604	14,300	2,140	-4,464	-12,160
West Virginia	Huntington, Charleston, Parkersburg	4,238	9,776	2,140	-2,098	-7,636
Wisconsin	Urban areas (excluding Dane and Milwaukee)	6,104	13,630	2,140	-3,964	-11,490
Wyoming	Cheyenne	4,056	8,216	2,140	-1,916	-6,076

*NOTES: Indiana, Mississippi and Rhode Island did not provide cost data for an urban area; therefore, statewide data are used instead. New York did not provide data for an urban area; data for a suburban area adjacent to New York City are used here.
North Carolina and Oregon provided median annual costs, rather than average annual costs.
The income level for this hypothetical family was calculated using the federal minimum wage of $5.15 per hour. Ten states have a higher hourly minimum wage (Alaska [$5.65]; California [$5.75]; Connecticut [$6.15]; Delaware [$5.65, rising to $6.15 October 1, 2000]; Hawaii [$5.25]; Massachusetts [$6.00, rising to $6.75 January 1, 2001]; Oregon [$6.50]; Rhode Island [$5.65]; Vermont [$5.75]; and Washington [$6.50, to be indexed to CPI January 1, 2001]).
In many of the states, families earning $21,400 a year would be eligible for child care assistance. However, due to insufficient funding, eligible families may not always receive help.

SOURCE: Data collected from local resource and referral agencies in a survey by the Children's Defense Fund, Spring 2000.

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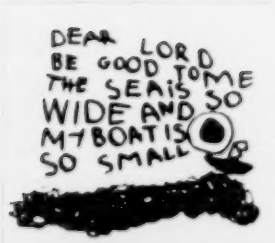

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